

The minutes of the March 8, 2014 meeting held in the Administration Building at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.

Attendance: Debbie Cowell, Joanne Loesser, Jack Marion, Harry Space, Tom Mullane, Gille Fenczak, Karen Fenczak, Cheryl Sanchez, Elizabeth Nagy, Frank Nagy, Mike Kinney, Ed Balogh, Scott Sedar, Cathie Skove, Michael Blahut, Daralyn Sybesma, John Harrison, Karen Longo, Gary Roemer, Liz Bisaccio, Debbie Schulaka, Cyndie Lucey, John Lucey, Leeann Coleman, Carmine DeFalco, Jennifer Ritchie, Sands Ritchie, Marsha Roemer, Denise Webb, Helen Webb, Tom Webb, Mary Anne McInerney, Norman Lee, Christa Schmidt, Candice Thompson, Mike Arnold, Nadine Toomey, Tom Makoujy, Joel Medina, Dan Perez, Chris Tomlinson, Mat Wingle, Bruce Masters, Heather Gonzalez, Elly Lessin, Roman Oscada, JC Cowell. Guests: David C. Gilley, Janet Katz, Helen Black, Riley Everett.

The meeting began at 11:15 am with President Debbie Cowell introducing the Officers of the Executive Board and guest Janet Katz, President of the NJBA.

The honey bee packages should be in April 12. Therefore, there is a date change for the next meeting from April 19 to April 15 at 5 pm to be held at LeeAnn's bee yard. Further schedule date changes are: the June meeting will be June 7 at 11 am with a rain date of June 8 at 11 am, place to be determined; and another date added to the schedule of July 31 for the final fair setup at 6 pm in the Richard's Building.

Roman Oscada, Treasurer, announced it is time for members to pay their yearly dues. Gilles Fenczak and Cathie Skove won ribbons at the state honey show.

Janet Katz, President of NJBA, mentioned dues need to be paid to be included on the swarm collection list which will be updated at the next state meeting. Janet briefed us on the NJBA February meeting which included speaker Lincoln Sennet, owner of Swans Honey in Albion, ME. In early May 2013, Lincoln Sennet's load on a flatbed trailer became displaced. The driver upon noticing something was wrong pulled over and discovered several pallets of bees, which had been loaded on top of inadequately shrink-wrapped buckets of corn syrup, had shifted. Hives and corn syrup tumbled to the ground when the driver opened the netting. A group of bee association members and the state apiarist unloaded, properly reloaded, with the pallets of bees now under the buckets of corn syrup, restored the netting, and strapped down the load enabling the driver to be on his way for delivery. "This is an example of working together to minimize what could have been a far worse situation." Janet then gave some information regarding NJBA meetings which were the revisions to the by-laws being passed, work continues on legislation with regards to beekeeping, building on the honey queen program, acknowledged receipt of a USDA Specialty Block Grant of \$21,000 which will be used to: educate the public, identify NJ native plants for late season forage, the ability for all branches to distribute native plants of goldenrod, aster and butterfly weed, two test plots to grow those plants from seeds and an educational video of why bees need pollen.

The meeting was followed by a presentation on "Honey Bee Foraging Communication" by David C. Gilley, Associate Professor of Biology at William Paterson University, a pot luck lunch and roundtable discussion of current bee hive concerns. The meeting ended at 11:42 am.

Marsha Roemer, Secretary